

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations are intended to serve and protect the community, improve quality of life for members of the community, and reduce crime.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**Factors underlying criminal behavior should be addressed.** Underlying needs of individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system should be identified. Individuals whose criminal behavior can be reduced by addressing underlying needs should be diverted from the criminal justice system into the social service system. There should be diversion opportunities at multiple points in the criminal justice system, e.g., law enforcement diversion, prosecutorial diversion, judicial diversions and therapeutic courts, opportunities to connect with services while incarcerated and upon release from incarceration, and probation practices that emphasize rehabilitation (e.g., drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, social services, behavioral therapy, life skill training, etc.).

**Changes should be viewed and implemented as part of a system-wide approach.**

**Practices should be evidence-based and cost effective** to reduce recidivism and should not simply shift costs but should result in cost savings for the community as a whole.

**Law enforcement and criminal justice entities should be transparent and accountable;** their practices should be driven, measured, and tracked with meaningful data to show the community they are affecting crime, recidivism, and street level social issues, their data should be available to the public, and their practices should be modified periodically in response to the data.

**Advocate for increased funding for mental health treatment, chemical dependency prevention and treatment, and housing,** recognizing that many of the criminal justice strategies recommended by the task force can be successful only to the extent there is sufficient social services capacity.

### **SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Policy/Legislative**

**Alcohol Impact Area(s)** – Designate area(s) within the City in which the sale of certain alcohol products (typically high alcohol content, inexpensive, single-serving take out products) is prohibited. Requires Liquor Control Board approval. (Short Term (ST), <\$500,000, City/business)

**Amend aggressive begging ordinance** to prohibit panhandling at intersections and on median strips. (ST, <\$100,000, City)

**More detox beds, including a secure detox facility** (other than the jail) (Long Term (LT), >\$1,000,000, County/other service providers)

**Identify, clean-up, and monitor encampments** as an element of the Tacoma model in conjunction with providing additional resources, including housing, for displaced individuals. (ST, >\$500,000, City, housing providers)

**Jail Transition Services:** Support the county's proposal to convert the Carnegie Building adjacent to the jail to a jail transition facility with services, case workers and temporary shelter for individuals released from or diverted from jail so they are not released onto the street without resources. (ST, <\$100,000 [except for County], County, all)

### **Alternatives to Incarceration**

**Day reporting** (individuals report daily to a non-secure facility in lieu of secure confinement; eventually evidence-based rehabilitative programming could be incorporated). (ST, <\$100,000 [should be at least cost neutral, given jail savings, City])

**Work Crew** as an alternative sentence, in lieu of incarceration. Crew would focus on cleaning up (sweeping, litter pickup, etc.) commercial core areas most affected by litter, beer cans, graffiti and other by-products of street disorder. (ST, <\$100,000 [should be at least cost neutral, given jail savings, City])

**Expand use of therapeutic courts:** expand Community Justice Alternatives program to include, or when justified by capacity establish a stand-alone, drug court, and explore feasibility of homeless court and community court. (ST, >\$100,000, City/County)

### **Systems**

**Develop a multi-agency team to respond to frequent utilizers** of emergency, police, jail, and medical resources with individually tailored plans to improve functioning of individuals and reduce the burden on these systems system. The team should also consult with business and property owners to identify chronic public inebriates and subjects of excessive nuisance and criminal complaints. (ST, <\$100,000, City/County [jail]/Providence/other service providers)

**Implement evidence-based best practices in probation services** to reduce recidivism, thereby reducing street crime. Probation services should include a validated need/risk assessment tool, focus on offenders at highest risk of re-offending, and use a menu of strategies that includes approaches such as drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, life skills training, and evidence-based therapies such as cognitive behavioral therapy. (ST, <\$500,000, City)

**Incorporate outreach into police and EMS (Santa Monica model),** including providing police and EMS with training/information on available services to refer people to and imbedding a social worker in EMS and police. (ST, <\$500,000, City/possibly County and other providers)

**Increase law enforcement presence in commercial areas,** especially bike and foot patrol; use noncommissioned personnel if there are insufficient commissioned officers to implement this recommendation. (ST, <\$500,000, City)

**Return released inmates and other dislocated individuals to place of origin or relational support:**

Work with County to develop system for transporting out-of-town arrestees back to place of arrest or other location where they have support or connections rather than simply releasing them onto the street in Everett; work with the Washington State Department of Corrections re same. (ST, <\$100,000, County)

**Transport dislocated and/or stranded individuals:** work with other street outreach workers to identify individuals who have been dislocated to Everett and return them to their families or other location where they have a support system. (ST, <\$100,000, City/County/others)

**Implement County-Wide Justice Reinvestment Model** or other ongoing collaborative, systemic review of criminal justice system. (ST/LT, <\$500,000 (initially, long-term should be savings, City/County/others))